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CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL/SECURITY INFORMATION 50X1-HUM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Hungary

DATE DISTR. 17 Sep 1953

SUBJECT Krypton Gas Factory

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1. [redacted] the Palace Company, Ltd, one of the most important construction firms in Hungary [redacted] was engaged in surface and underground engineering. One [redacted] project was the Krypton Gas Factory in Csingervolgy which is approximately 25 miles southwest of Veszprem. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM

2. In 1938, the Tungsram Muneh (Tungsram Works) decided to introduce a cheaper and more efficient incandescent bulb which would be filled with "Krypton" gas. To avoid the need for importing krypton, the Tungsram Works decided to build its own krypton gas producing plant. The plant was planned by Dr. Bela Enyedi, engineer, who had a permanent position with the Tungsram Works and did all their planning.

3. The plant was built on the grounds of the Csingervolgy coal mine in which the Tungsram Works had an interest. The site of the plant is Hill 401, indicated /on Enclosure (A)/ by a dot; it was chosen because pure, smoke-free air was the single production prerequisite.

4. The plant began producing in the spring of 1940.

Technical Description

5. Although the chosen site was ideal from the point of view of pure air, the swampiness of the ground on Hill 401 made building difficult. The swamp is caused by a manganese mine which has been operating there for many years and uses the water of the Csinger brook for washing the manganese. Consequently, the Krypton factory had to be built on piles to protect the sensitive equipment from the effects of shifting or sinking subsoil.

Production Procedure

6. Air is drawn into the plant through an iron pipe, 1.80 meters in diameter, which is located on the eastern side of the building. A pump conducts the air into the extracting cylinder heads. The krypton derived in this manner is driven by compression through a separate pipe into a small gasometer. The gasometer is inside the plant, installed amid the machinery.

7. The air which remains after the extraction of krypton is pumped out on the western side of the plant through a take-off pipe 1.20 meters in diameter, but similar to the intake pipe in all other respects.

8. The gas collected in the gasometer is transferred to small 5 kilogram iron flasks in which it is shipped to the consumer. One five kilogram flask contains gas enough to fill 200 thousand electric light bulbs.

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9. The plant can produce between five and eight kilograms of krypton per day. The quantity of production depends in part on the prevailing air currents.

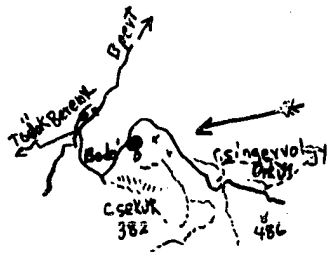
10. Five employees are sufficient for operating the plant. These are a chemist, a machinist, a technician for checking the meters and two assistant mechanics.

11. The entire equipment of the plant came from Germany and was installed by German mechanics.

- end -

ENCLOSURE (A): Sketch of Krypton Gas Factory

ENCLOSURE (A)



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Arrow points to dot indicating Hill 401 which is the site of the Krypton Gas Plant.

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